245 The Communists have ordered the increased
433 production of tea. The production target set for Yunnan in 1955 was approximately 48 per cent higher than the output in 1954, which in turn was 21 per cent above the amount produced in the preceding year.[26]

According to a radio report from Peking, the province of Yunnan has been designated as one of the major coffee growing districts in Communist China. The region abounds with wild coffee plants; the Communists propose that in the spring of 1956 millions of coffee plant seedlings be transplanted and cultivated.[27] The first harvest is expected in three years' time, and plants for processing coffee beans are to be built.[28]

241 Kweichow Province has comparatively
433 poor agricultural resources. With the exception of grain, this area does not produce a significant quantity of any important commodity. The output of tung oil and tobacco amounts to about 450,000 shih-piculs (24,750 tons) per
273 year.[29] "Mao-t'ai" wine, which resembles dry
433 gin, has reportedly gained an international reputation and has become one of the leading exports from the province of Kweichow.

26. New China News Agency, Kunming, April 6, 1955.

27. Examiner, San Francisco, Nov. 6, 1955, p. 9.

28. Ibid.

29. China Daily News, New York, August 16, 1955.

5: Davies G-5 (1894-1900) 1909 AF16 Southwest China AF16

000 inhabitants of the valley are chiefly Shans. In the first march we passed two of the salt wells. One of these called
317 Hsi-k'ung-ching I stopped to examine. The water is drawn up in a large skin bucket from the well, which they say is 180 feet deep. It is then boiled in enormous cauldrons for three or four days till a residuum of earth strongly impregnated with salt is left. This is then pounded, mixed with water and boiled afresh over and over again till nothing but pure salt remains. The well is said to produce 500 lbs. of salt in the year. They do not work it in the rains, as they say the water is not then salt enough. I suppose the amount of rain water which falls into the well and filters through the earth into it dilutes the original salt water so much that it is not worth boiling.

273 Strong liquor is apparently sold cheap at Hsi-k'ung-ching, for soon after we had got to our halting place for the night I got a message to say that my Madrassi cook was lying on the road and could not be got on. So dead drunk was he that he could not move for hours and did not turn up till the middle of the night. He appeared the next morning with a bland face as if nothing particular had happened, and afterwards explained that a bad attack of fever had prevented him from arriving in camp as soon as he could have wished.

000 Indian servants are the greatest possible nuisance in China, as of course they are quite unable to talk to anyone or to buy anything. Their only use is that they attract a good deal of attention, and take part of the crowd of sightseers away from oneself. In Burma it is impossible to get a Chinese cook. Travellers entering western China from the Yangtze direction have the great advantage of coming with Chinese servants.

On the second day out of Wei-yüan we left the Chên-yüan road and, fording the river, turned eastward. The road was abominable, leading up the actual bed of a stream covered with large stones, and crossing the stream more
563 than 30 times in less than six miles. We slept at Têng-
197 t'ung, a village inhabited by the K'a-tu tribe, who are called Wo-ni by the Chinese. Their language is closely allied to the different Lo-lo dialects, and the headquarters of the tribe is in the T'a-lang district.

7: Hu K-5 (1934-) 1946 AF16 Southwest China AF16

244 occupies about 4,000,000 mow, or 4 per cent of the total crop land. Kaoliang, sometimes called false millet, is a staple dry crop on hilly lands. It is noted for its special capacity to be without water for a long time (longer than corn) without drying to death. The choice of these two crops by farmers for a certain area often depends on this point. Besides being used widely for human consumption, as well as for livestock feed, kaoliang is used mainly (between 70 and 80 per cent of the total crop) for the manufacture of wine, the famous kaoliang wine. This last use proves to be particularly advantageous to the farmers because wine can be transported to far distant markets when the sale of bulky grains, owing to prohibitive transportation costs, is difficult.

• [273]

243 e) Wheat.--The most important winter food crop is wheat (Triticum Sativum). It normally occupies about 15,000,000 mow, or 17 per cent of the total crop area, and the Basin has an annual output of 44,000,000 piculs (Fig. 35). The Basin is the fifth largest wheat producer in all China. With the exception of the Chien-chiang district (which for reasons unknown does not produce wheat), wheat is produced as a winter food crop in nearly all parts of the Basin, particularly in the districts around Chengtu Plain. The wheat prefers the more clayey soils of the Basin, and gives a particularly good yield.

The crop matures generally in 150 to 170 days. In most parts of the Basin, the field is seeded in the middle of October and the harvest takes place in the early part of May, depending upon the latitudinal position, as well as the topography of the area. Next to rice, wheat is the most important food crop of the Basin, contributing 12 per cent of the total food supply. It is eaten in the form of "mien" (noodles) or in other forms of dumplings.

249 f) Rape seed.--The Basin leads all China, both in area and in total annual production of rape (Brassica juncea; a winter crop). Normally it occupies an area of 11,000,000 mow, or about 10 per cent of the total crop area, and the annual output is 15,000,000 piculs[1] (Fig. 35). From the rape seed, oil is extracted for cooking and many other purposes. The seed cakes also furnish

[1]Bureau of Central Agricultural Research, Agricultural Statistics (1939), p. 97.